

UGLY CHARGE BY TAXICAB DRIVER

Says Member of Police Board Made Him Violate Speed Law.

MAYOR PROMPTLY TAKES MATTER UP

Presents Letter From Dr. Williams, Who Quotes Chauffeur, to Board, Every Commissioner Denying It—Trying to Get Man Who Made Charge.

Charges made by a chauffeur employed to operate a taxicab that a member of the Board of Police Commissioners had authorized him to ignore and violate the anti-speeding laws were presented to the Police Board last night by Mayor Richardson, its ex-officio chairman. Although no names were mentioned, every commissioner entered an emphatic denial, and to-day Mayor Richardson will endeavor to find the chauffeur and demand proof, explanation or retraction.

The charge was first made in a statement to Dr. Ennon G. Williams, State Commissioner of Health. To the man who made it Dr. Williams stated that he would send a report on the Mayor for such action as he might consider advisable. This he did yesterday, his letter to Mayor Richardson being read by the latter to the board.

Echo of Accident.
On the afternoon of October 13 a party of visitors attending the National Laundry Convention were upset in a taxicab accident at Fourth and Grace Streets, in which Mrs. Joseph Morton, of Baltimore, was injured. Dr. Williams, who happened to be nearby at the time, advised that she be removed at once to the Memorial hospital, where physicians treated her. One of the women in the car declared that the accident was due to the carelessness of the driver.

Subsequently the driver, in company with two other taxicab chauffeurs, called at the Capitol to see Dr. Williams. Something was said about fast driving, the man who figured in the mix-up stating that passengers often engaged cars with instructions to go to a certain destination in rather fast time. One chauffeur who was not driving the car when Mrs. Morton was hurt, volunteered to Dr. Williams the information about a trip to Church Hill and the charge against a Police Commissioner.

Dr. Williams immediately informed his visitors that while he knew nothing about the affair and was not a party to lodging the charges, he would most certainly forward the information to Mayor Richardson, to which no objection was raised.

Letter to the Mayor.
Accordingly he sent the following letter to the Mayor early yesterday: "Hon. D. C. Richardson, Mayor and Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners, Richmond, Va.
"Dear Sir:—I am writing a chauffeur of one of the taxicabs called to see me in regard to an accident in which he had been concerned. It was accompanied by two other taxicab chauffeurs. In speaking to them about the excessive speeding of taxicabs and other automobiles in the city, they said they had to drive fast, as they were so often urged to do so by the occupants. One of the chauffeurs said that even some of the Police Commissioners would urge them to speed. He cited as an example that recently a Police Commissioner got in his taxicab on Broad Street, saying he was late for an engagement, and told him to 'open up and let her go'—that no one would bother him. He took the commissioner to Church Hill, where the latter changed his mind, and brought him back in ten minutes. The chauffeur did not mention the name of the commissioner.

"I told the chauffeur I would mention this conversation to you, which I now do, for whatever action you may deem proper.

"ENNON G. WILLIAMS,"

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Realizing at once that the charge should be promptly investigated, and deploring the number of automobile accidents recently mentioned in the newspapers, Mayor Richardson put the letter in his pocket and presented it to the commissioners last night. The Mayor felt that Dr. Williams had done what was proper, but that the information to headquarters, his statement being accepted by the entire board without question.

But the statement of the chauffeur brought forth indignant denials, especially from the members of the board. Commissioner Manning declared that he had never ridden in a taxicab in this city. Mayor Richardson was requested, therefore, to confer with Dr. Williams to-day with a view of securing the name of the chauffeur.

Not Hiding Facts.

Coming on top of the inability of the Police Board and the Council to get together and prepare an adequate traffic law, it is not surprising that one kind or another, and the report of the coroner's jury yesterday that it is unwise to allow these menacing machines to run in the city at a speed which, at the latest, should be allowed to the far less menacing street cars, the Mayor felt that if there was evidence to show that a commissioner had wilfully and deliberately forced a violation of law, the facts should be known, even if led to his dismissal by the Council or the judge of the Hustings Court.

There has been widespread denunciation of the lack of needed legislation and the failure of the Council to enact a law which would curb the reckless spirit of some automobile owners. The Richmond Automobile Club recommended a provision in the law which would require the licensing of all drivers by a competent board, and another section which would prevent the issuance of a license to a boy under eighteen years of age. But nothing has been done. The murder nuisance was ordered out, but that it is only a nuisance is evident.

CITY'S PROPERTY JUMPS IN VALUE

Over Two Million Increase as Compared With 1905.

ASSETS GROW YEAR BY YEAR

Real Property Owned by Municipality Amounts to \$14,108,870—Could Sell City Hall, Gas and Water Plants and Pay All Indebtedness.

State assessors of property in Richmond reported to the Council Committee on Finance last night that the value of real property owned by the city of Richmond amounts to \$14,108,870. The bonded debt of the city, less securities held by the Board of Sinking Fund Commissioners, is about \$9,000,000.

City buildings and lands are valued as follows:

City Hall	\$1,632,000
Alms House	100,000
Colored Almshouse	100,000
First Regiment Armory	65,000
Blues' Armory	67,000
Second Market	172,000
First Market	80,000
Second Market	114,500
Seabrook Warehouse	19,800
Branch Bath	33,400
Fairmount Town Hall	30,000
First Police Station	74,500
Second Police Station	9,000
City Jail	9,100
Street Cleaning Station	50,400
Confederate Museum	28,000
Auditorium	90,000
Courthouse Square, Washington Ward	42,100
Jail, Washington Ward (all lots sold)	5,900
Oakwood Cemetery	20,000
Viewmont Cemetery	80,000
Chimborazo Park	232,500
Marshall Park	48,500
Jefferson Park	11,750
Gambles Hill Park	37,330
Gambles Hill Park	370,620
Riverside Park	15,000
City Hall	515,000
Joseph Bryan Park	28,000
State Fair Grounds	200,000
Smallpox Hospital (all lots sold)	19,800
Triangular lot West End	54,900
Lester Street Rockettes	56,161
Other lots owned by city	12,490
Other lots, Washington Ward	8,114
Clark's Spring property	36,000
Mau and Olive Cemetery, Washington Ward	27,000
Fire Department, buildings and lots	174,770
School Department, buildings and lots	1,305,468
James River Bridge	200,000
Electric plant, downtown	338,061
Water Department, reservoirs settling basin and pump-house	4,000,000
Gas Works, lots and buildings	3,500,000
Total	\$14,113,370
Less assessed in Water Department	4,500
Net realty assessment	\$14,108,870

No Personal Property Included.

The report concludes: "We have made a careful and thorough examination of all the above property and believe it to be a fair and conservative valuation. We have been governed by the statements of the superintendents of gas and water works in regard to the value of franchise, pipes, lines and machinery in the property. Also, we have taken the statements of the superintendents of the cemeteries as to valuation of the property. We have not included the personal property of the fire, police and school departments in this report.

The report is signed by the assessors appointed by the Hustings Court—Gilbert J. Hunt, William E. Purcell, Jr., and George D. Pearson.
For purposes of comparison the report is complete, since it includes only realty—the valuation of lands and buildings—and not personal property such as automobiles, horses, and other things. It is to be added the value of school furniture and equipment, fire apparatus and horses, police and fire signal systems and apparatus, and the great sewerage system of the city, probably worth \$1,500,000, which yields in special taxes nearly 3 per cent. on the investment. The paper was returned to the commissioners by the Finance Committee in order that an assessment on sewers might be included in the total. It will be returned at the next meeting.

City Gains Millions.

The report of the State assessors made to the Council on September 12, 1905, includes both real and personal property, but only reaches a total of \$11,903,832.

The present assessment for real property only, therefore, shows an increase over both the total of the city's real and personal property five years ago of \$2,204,938. In the 1905 assessment there was an item for sewers alone of \$1,125,000, which does not appear in the report submitted, showing a probable increase in the city's assets on the basis of a new assessment of between three and four million dollars. While this valuation is not made the basis in determining the bond limit of the city, which under the charter is limited to 18 per cent. of the taxable values, yet the splendid showing of assets cannot but have a strong effect on the market for city bonds. According to this assessment, Richmond could sell its gas and water works and its city hall for a sum sufficient to pay off all indebtedness of whatever character, and then own all other of its public utilities and buildings in fee simple and without incumbrance.
The assessors have not yet reported on the grand total of all real property in the city subject to taxation, the list still being subject to correction in some wards. Under the law it has to be reported to the State Auditor or Public Accounts before December 1. In the assessment of property, the

(Continued on Third Page.)

GREAT DISASTER COSTS MANY LIVES

Capital of Island of Ischia Submerged by Tidal Wave.

CITY SAID TO BE DESTROYED

Terrific Rainfall Along Slopes of Vesuvius Washes Away Thousands of Tons of Lava and Carries People to Death—Hundreds Rumored Lost.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.)
Rome, October 24.—Confused and complete reports have reached the Home Office of a great disaster at Ischia, the capital of the island of Ischia, sixteen miles southwest of Naples, in the Mediterranean. It is feared that the town has been submerged by a tidal wave. No particulars have been received.

Torpedo boats have been sent from Naples to Ischia to render assistance. Telegraph and cable connection between Ischia and Naples is broken. The mayor of Ischia telegraphed the prefect of police here that Cassamicciola has been destroyed, as was forecast in earlier dispatches. The telegram adds that there are many victims and that help is urgently needed.

As a result of this plea the government has sent a fleet of warships consisting of three battleships and four cruisers, with instructions to hurry to the scene of the disaster with all provisions and food available. Troops have also been hurried to the stricken city.

Word comes that it is not likely that there are any Americans among the victims of the disaster. Later advices indicate that the hotels at Cassamicciola are empty, owing to the prevalence of cholera at Naples, and that the flood damage is confined to the destruction of a few wooden houses which are occupied by peasants. The only American known to have been in Cassamicciola of late is the painter, Robert Hale, who comes from St. Paul, Minn., and who is said to have left the town several days ago.

The Home Office has received news of the disaster from Naples. The prefect of that city wires that he has heard from the captain of a steamship that a terrific storm struck the island of Ischia and caused a great damage to property, but that there were no fatalities. The prefect has dispatched troops to Ischia to undertake the work of rescue.

Dr. Cabini is considering the question of the organization of assistance. Direct news from Ischia is lacking. According to the latest reports, a hurricane struck the island at 4 o'clock this morning and destroyed that half of the island opposite Procida.

Severe Cloudburst.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.)
Naples, October 24.—There was a severe cloudburst over the Bay of Naples during the night. The sea heaved violently, and even large steamships in the bay were affected. At the same time Vesuvius emitted streams of mud, and two families were buried at Torre Del Greco, at the foot of the mountain. Five bodies have been recovered.

Loss of Life is also reported from Cesa, on the Bay of Salerno. Great damage was done at Resina, which was built on the ruins of Heracleum, as well as at Torre Del Greco. A street in the latter town was almost completely destroyed. The authorities and troops are working heroically to rescue the injured.

A flood in Naples, supposed to be due to heavy rains, caused the walls of several buildings to collapse. The damage was slight.

The news received here from the island of Ischia, which leads the authorities to fear that great damage was done by the tidal wave at Cassamicciola and Ischia, on that island.

Great Loss of Life.

Rome, October 24.—Late dispatches only confirm the great loss of life following the terrific rainfall along the slopes of Vesuvius. It is now stated that the floods resulted in the washing away of thousands of tons of lava and ashes which had accumulated along the crests of the mountain since the last eruption. Floods are reported at Cetara, Amalfi and elsewhere. In the neighborhood of Salerno there have been several deaths. The latest news from Ischia is awaited, but unverified reports from there indicate that the loss of life in the district has been very heavy. There is a rumor that hundreds of lives have been lost at Cassamicciola.

Cassamicciola is twelve miles southwest of Procida, at the foot of Mount Epomeo. It was nearly destroyed by an earthquake in July, 1832, when about 1,700 lives were lost. It has since been rebuilt, and has a population of about 4,000.

DELAY WEDDING? N-E-V-E-R!

Not Even for Colonel Wood Will Get Postponed Nuptials.

New York, October 24.—Delay my wedding for Theodore Roosevelt? Never! This is what Anna Field, of the Brownville section of Brooklyn, told Reuben C. Haskell, Republican leader of Brownville, to-day when he tried to persuade her to waive her right to the Metropolitan Slaughter, in order that Colonel Roosevelt might deliver an address there, as scheduled, October 28.

Haskell had counted on holding the rally in the Metropolitan Slaughter, but discovered that it had been engaged for the nuptials of Miss Field and Abraham Zahls. He hurried to the girl's home with the suggestion that she postpone or hasten the wedding, but she was obstinate, and it was necessary to engage another hall.

Date of Trial Fixed.

New York, October 23.—Judge Tan Eyck to-day set November 23 as the date for the trial of the Wardlaw sisters, charged with the murder of Oney Smith. The inquiry into the mental condition of Mrs. Caroline B. Martin, one of the accused sisters, will be opened November 2.

HE'S GETTING EVEN WITH ROOSEVELT

"Fire Alarm" Foraker Has Long Knife Out for Colonel.

MAY GIVE OHIO TO DEMOCRATS

State Committee, Perturbed by Attack on Ex-President, May Take Former Senator Off Stump—Roosevelt's Ohio Dates Likely to Be Canceled.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Columbus, O., October 24.—Members of the Republican State Executive Committee are wrought up over the speech delivered by ex-Senator J. B. Foraker, at Marysville, last Saturday. It is probable that the dates for other speeches by Foraker in the State campaign will be canceled. A meeting of the committee has been called for tomorrow to take action on the matter. The meeting at which Foraker was to speak with Congressman Nicholas Longworth, in Ironton, has already been called off. Members of the committee declare the speech will lose the Republican candidate for Governor the county of Union, in which it was delivered, and which is a Foraker stronghold. They also assert the speech will cost Harding many votes throughout the State.

Some are of the opinion that Foraker's attack on Roosevelt was for the purpose of defeating Harding, as only a pretense of friendship has existed between the two since the gubernatorial candidate deserted the ex-senator in his fight to succeed himself in the Senate. Others believe Foraker took advantage of the occasion to even up with Roosevelt.

Let come what may, Executive Chairman Laylin is blamed for allowing Foraker to make the speech, as the ex-senator submitted a copy of it to the chairman before it was delivered. Laylin refuses to discuss the matter.

The verdict among politicians is that the speech has split the Republicans, and spelled disaster to the tremendous efforts of Harding to reunite the scattered forces in his campaign.

There is strong talk of canceling Roosevelt's dates to speak in Ohio. The intention that Roosevelt will now decline to take part in the campaign is believed by many Republicans. On the other hand, politicians saw that if Roosevelt does speak he will not hesitate to give Foraker a few blows.

Warren G. Harding, who was to visit Foraker's home in Indiana yesterday, but changed his mind after reading the Marysville speech, makes the following statement: "I am a Republican, and I believe in the Republican party. I believe in the Republican party, and I believe in the Republican party."

Behind the brinking out of Foraker and a Republican speaker, which the State Committee attempted to minimize through the formal statement of Chairman Laylin that the former Senator would not speak, is the fact that the State Committee will assume responsibility.

The truth of the situation is that Foraker's friends had had representatives canvassing the country for weeks, feeling out sentiment as far as he personally was concerned. Foraker's friends had been reporting that he would not speak, and the State Committee was divided as to the advisability of it.

Friends of Foraker went to the State committee and demanded that he be allowed to speak. The committee, in the direction of the committee under the direction of the former Senator, there was at least one stormy scene at the meeting, and the committee consented to putting the Senator on the stump.

Behind the Foraker attack on Roosevelt is a long and bitter feud between the former Senator to vindicate himself. Foraker blames Colonel Roosevelt largely for his downfall in politics. The attack was made in the church. The historic edifice was crowded to the doors. Men were there who had stood shoulder to shoulder with the statesman in the days of his political career, and men who had opposed him bitterly. All were there today to see the former Senator deliver an address, and during one of the most strenuous periods of modern political history.

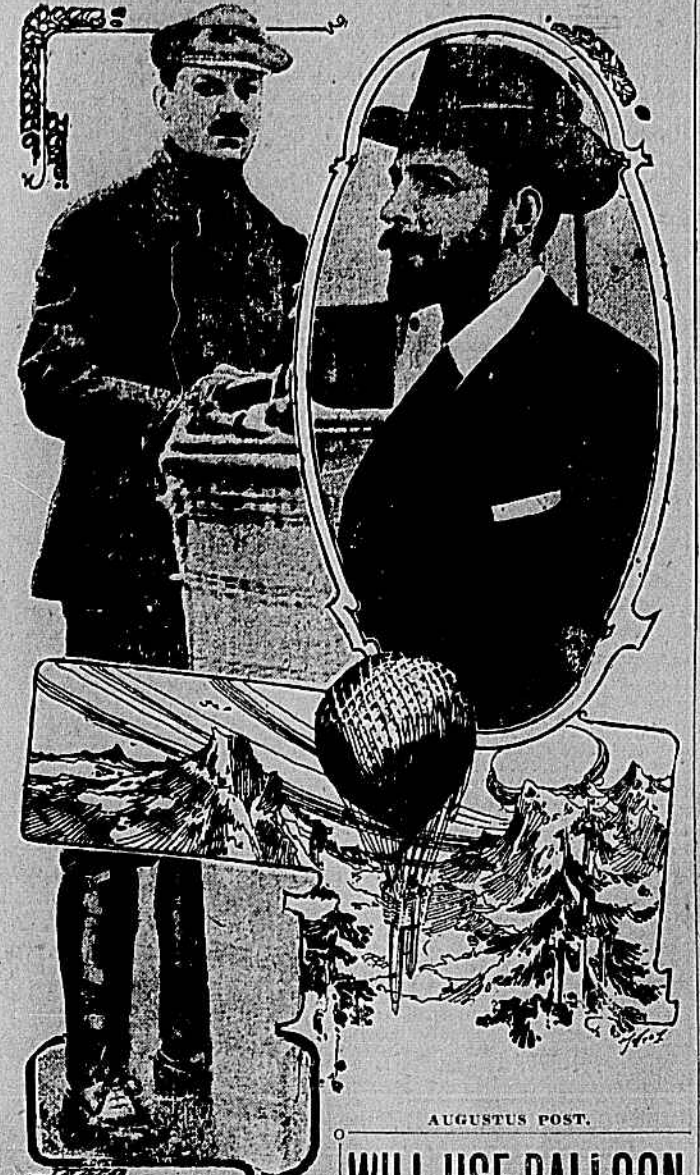
The funeral of David B. Hill.

Church Crowded With Men Who Pay Final Tribute.

Abany, N. Y., October 24.—The funeral of David Bennett Hill took place to-day in St. Peter's Church. There was no eulogy, just the impressive burial service of the Episcopal Church. The surplined choir sang "Lead Kindly Light," and "New Morning Prayer." The historic edifice was crowded to the doors. Men were there who had stood shoulder to shoulder with the statesman in the days of his political career, and men who had opposed him bitterly. All were there today to see the former Senator deliver an address, and during one of the most strenuous periods of modern political history.

The mourners who followed the body to the railway station included Dr. A. D. Hill, of Dexter, Missouri; a brother, Lawrence D. Hill, of Malden, Missouri; a nephew, and Peter J. Manville, Mr. Hill's secretary, who had been associated with the Senator for eighteen years. The funeral will be in St. Louis, Mo., tomorrow.

New York Balloonists Who It Is Now Feared Met Death in Canada Wilds



WILL USE BALLOON TO FIND BALLOON

Von Phul Will Sail Away in Search of Missing Aeronauts.

Government Making Final Attempt to Uphold Indictment.

Arguments Are Made of Case as "Legal Curiosity."

Washington, D. C., October 24.—The final attempt of the Federal government to uphold the validity of the indictment in the New York Federal courts of the Press Publishing Company on a charge of libel, growing out of the publishing of an article in the New York World on the purchase of the Panama Canal, was made this afternoon in oral arguments before the Supreme Court of the United States.

The government's efforts were opposed by arguments for the Press Publishing Company, designed to sustain the action of the lower Federal court in failing to sustain the indictment.

The article in question was printed in the last of the presidential campaign of 1905. It charged that Charles P. Taft, Douglas Robinson and William Nelson Cromwell, with J. Pierpont Morgan and others, obtained control of the Panama Canal route for \$5,000,000, and through their intimacy with Theodore Roosevelt, then President of the United States, and William H. Taft, then Secretary of War, had sold the property to the United States at a profit of \$36,000,000.

Says Lower Court Erred.
James C. McInnis, special assistant to the Attorney-General, in his opening statement said that the lower court had erred in quashing the indictment against the Press Publishing Company on the charge of circulating a libelous article at the West Point military reservation. He argued that libel was a misdemeanor under the New York code, and that Congress, in line with its duty of protecting the people of West Point, had made the code applicable to this Federal jurisdiction. This it has done under the law enacted in 1855.

De Lancy Nicoll, of New York, counsel for the Press Publishing Company, spoke of the case as a "legal curiosity." He said, as he turned to Attorney-General Wickham, that it was not his business to have made the discovery of the power of Congress to punish libel committed within a State, but that of his predecessor, Attorney-General Bonaparte. It was the latter, said the attorney, who made the revelation that in 1893 Congress, without intending it, really had re-enacted the sedition laws of 1798. In closing, Mr. Nicoll said: "As a matter of fact, the prosecution was premature, born before its time, belonging to a new dispensation when the Federal government has taken to itself all power and authority, and the States have been reduced to mere geographical districts; when the Federal tribunals shall no longer decide cases in accordance with precedents and the law, but according to the needs of the time, as interpreted to them by some great steward of the public welfare."

The court then took the case under advisement. An opinion in the case may not be rendered for several weeks.

AIR HUMS WITH BUZZ OF DIPPING, DANCING CRAFT

Evolutions of Aero-planes Too Swift for Eye to Follow.

EVERY EVENT FULL OF ACTION

New American Record for Altitude Goes to Credit of J. Armstrong Drexel, Who Rises 7,105 Feet in Air—Debutantes Introduced to Flying World.

New York, October 24.—The third day of the international aviation meet at Belmont Park, L. I., made up for all the damp, cold and disappointment of the first two days. A new American record for altitude was set down to the credit of J. Armstrong Drexel, and the competition in the other events was at all times a thing of delight, full of zest, action and beauty. The air fairly hummed with the buzz of the dipping, dancing craft, and their necessary evolutions were so rapid and so intricate that the spectators could not follow them, and even the official scorers, prompted from the judges' stand by the tabulators and time-keepers, lagged behind.

Drexel soared to an altitude in his record flight at 3:40 P. M. in great, lazy circles he crept into the wind, pointing higher and higher into the glare of the setting sun to a height of 7,105 feet. Behind him three busy airplanes were sputtering about the track like so many sparrows in a panic, racing for places in the grand speed event. He planned above them like a hawk searching the meadows, so high that in perspective seemed almost immobile against the blue.

Descent in Swift.
His descent was swift but unhurried, and he landed lightly in the middle of the field. There was immediate surprise that he had approached if he had not established a new record, but his figures were available on his barograph had been unsealed and the reading of the stylograph on the plotted sheet inside it examined.

Drexel had made, however, what proved to be a remarkably close estimate of just what he had done. "I've been up more than 7,000 feet," he said, "and let me tell you that it was cold."

The barograph is an aneroid barometer to which is attached a revolving drum of plotted paper driven by clockwork with a recording stylus attached. The instrument shows both the height and the time at which it was made. Drexel's reading showed clearly that he had risen 7,105 feet. The best previous American record was 6,175 feet, made by Walter Brookings at Atlantic City, and Drexel's own best record, made last summer in Great Britain, was 5,800 feet.

At the time a world's record, it is probable that the official records, as they will finally be compiled, will allow him only 7,100 feet to-day, as it is held that an aneroid barometer is an instrument not of accurate measurement, but is relied upon for measurements down to the ultimate foot. The world's altitude record is 9,186 feet, held by Henry Wynnham, a Hollander.

Walter Brookings set out for altitude in a "Baby" Wright biplane—a machine precisely like the new headless fliers that the Wrights brought out this summer, but with a sharper, steeper descent, and the planes, thereby enabling the aviator to point up more sharply and climb faster.

Winn Second Honor.
Brookings went up 4,382 feet, according to the barograph, and won second altitude honors for the day. At the apex of his climb his engine, which had given him some trouble before, stopped dead with both the propellers pointing straight up into the air, so that in gliding to earth with no power on they afforded him the least assistance in breaking the rush of his descent. He came down whirling, about a mile and a half off the course, and struck with a bump, which broke his forward landing skid. The damage was insignificant, however, and he was not hurt in the least.

Next in the performance of Drexel, the crowd took most enjoyment in the appearance of models never seen in America before. The debutantes of the air, courted to the grandstand before starting, were standing in line and waiting for their first course. They were the new Wright climber used by Brookings in his altitude flight, a tiny Demolisse, called the Hummingbird, of aeroplanes, but it looks more like a butterfly, and a Flying Fish Antoinette. In all there were ten machines aloft, and all in spirit rivalry. Americans had never seen anything like it, and the exclamations of admiration and bewilderment were heard on every hand.

Latham Pilot Craft.
Latham, whose name has been associated so closely with the development of the Antoinette, piloted the machine in the sharp stem, shaped like the stem of a speed launch, with which it cuts the air. The two wheels with which he controls the long, slender wings could be seen incessantly turning backward and forward under his hands. The craft was fast, and it was particularly notable that he banked the turns with a precision and daring that the biplane monoplane, machine, backward and forward, under his hands. The craft was fast, and it was particularly notable that he banked the turns with a precision and daring that the biplane monoplane, machine, backward and forward, under his hands. The craft was fast, and it was particularly notable that he banked the turns with a precision and daring that the biplane monoplane, machine, backward and forward, under his hands.

The Antoinette's motor ran like a sewing machine, and when Latham seemed to be making less speed than he thought he would command, it was supposed that he was throttling down his 100-horsepower. Again the crowd was in error. He was flying a 30-horsepower, eight-cylinder machine, and his speed was not less than that of a 100-horsepower.

The possibility that the missing aeronauts have fallen into one of the great lakes or even passed beyond the Province of Quebec to the Atlantic and been lost, is realized.

ALAN R. HAWLEY.

WILL USE BALLOON TO FIND BALLOON